

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling electronic communications between the Internet and a client system comprising:

receiving, at a primary communications system configured to act as an access point to the Internet for data communications between the client system and the Internet, a request to access the Internet that is directed to the primary communication system, wherein the request is issued by an online identity operating the client system;

processing the request at the primary communication system;

identifying at the primary communication system, based on the processed request, a secondary communications system that is more optimally suited for providing Internet access to the client's system than the primary communications system; and

enabling configuration of the client system to direct subsequent Internet access requests from the client system and to use the secondary communications system as an access point to the Internet for subsequent data communications between the client system and the Internet, such that the subsequent data communications between the client and the Internet pass through the secondary communications system.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein processing the request further comprises:

authenticating the online identity or the client system at the primary communications system.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising enabling configuration of the client system to direct data communications, which are subsequent to access from the client system, to the secondary communications system.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein access to the Internet is granted to the client system by the primary communications system.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein access to the Internet is granted to the client system by the secondary communications system.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising encapsulating data communications in a tunneling protocol at the secondary communications system.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising determining whether responses to data communications can be satisfied by electronic data stored in a cache at the secondary communications system.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising performing filtering of data communications at the secondary communications system.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the filtering is performed according to contents filtering.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the primary communications system is an online access provider.

40. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling electronic communications with the Internet at a client system, comprising:

submitting a request to access the Internet that is directed to a primary communications system configured to act as an access point to the Internet for data communications between the client system and the Internet, wherein the request is issued by an online identity operating the client system;

receiving from the primary communications system, an indication of a secondary communications system that is more geographically proximate to the geographic location of the client system than the primary communications system;

reconfiguring the client system to submit future access requests to the secondary communications system based on the indication received;

submitting future requests to access the Internet from the client system to the secondary communications system; and

reconfiguring the client system to direct communications to the Internet, which are subsequent to access from the client system, to the secondary communications system.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) A method for enabling electronic communications between a client and the Internet at a secondary communications system that is more geographically proximate to a geographic location of the client system than a primary communications system, comprising:

receiving, from a primary communications system configured to act as an access point to the Internet for data communications between the client system and the Internet, an indication from a primary communications system to process requests to access the Internet that are issued by an online identity operating a client system, where the access requests are configured to enable access to the Internet;

based on the indication received, reconfiguring the secondary communications system to process requests to access the Internet from the client system; and

subsequent to Internet access by the client system through the secondary communications system, receiving data communications between the client system and the Internet at the secondary communications system.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising processing access requests at the secondary communications system.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein processing access requests further comprises:

authenticating the online identity or the client system at the primary communications system.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein access to the Internet is granted to the client system by the secondary communications system.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising encapsulating data communications in a tunneling protocol at the secondary communications system.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising determining whether responses to data communications can be satisfied by electronic data stored in a cache at the secondary communications system.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, further comprising:  
receiving, from the primary communications system, a subscriber information related to the online identity operating the client system;

performing filtering of data communications between the client system and the Internet at the secondary communications system based on the received subscriber information.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the filtering is performed according to contents filtering.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein processing the request further comprises determining a geographic location associated with at least one of the online identity and the client system, and wherein the geographic location is used as a basis for configuring the client system to direct subsequent Internet access requests from the client system.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein processing the request further comprises accessing a demographic profile of the online identity.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the demographic profile includes client-preferred routing paths.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the demographic profile includes software version of the client system.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the demographic profile includes the type of communication equipment used for Internet access by the client system.

56. (Withdrawn) A method for enabling a client system for faster Internet access at a primary communication system, comprising:

accessing geographic information for one or more geographically distributed network access proxies that each are configured as an access point with respect to an Internet content;

accessing a demographic profile for an online identity that includes geographic information for the online identity;

identifying, based on the demographic profile, a network access proxy to be used in granting access to the subsequent Internet access requests submitted by the online identity; and

configuring the network access proxy to enable access by the online identity to the Internet content in response to subsequent access requests submitted by the online identity.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the demographic profile further includes client-preferred routing paths.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the demographic profile further includes the software version of the client system.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the demographic profile further includes the type of communication equipment used for Internet access by the client system.

60. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

receiving, at a secondary communications system, subsequent data communications between the client and the Internet;

encapsulating subsequent data communications in an IP tunneling protocol at the secondary communications system; and

transmitting encapsulated data communications to the Internet using the IP tunneling protocol.

61. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the subscriber information includes at least one of parental control settings of the online identity or user preferences of the online identity.

62. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the subscriber information includes a demographic profile of the online identity.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the demographic profile includes client-preferred routing paths.

64. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the demographic profile includes software version of the client system.

65. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the demographic profile includes geographic location of the client system.